

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2012

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Peter J. Strazdas at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Strazdas provided a short synopsis of the Mayor and City Council for the Day Program and called forth the student who was voted Student Mayor for the Day, Joe Livingston, and City Clerk James Hudson administered the Oath of Office to him. Mayor Strazdas called forth the students who were elected Student Councilmembers for the Day from Portage Northern High School: Delaney Beals, Amanda Croft and Rachel Zawistowski, and from Portage Central High School: Renee Beranek, Emily Fulling and Robbie Overlander, and Mr. Hudson administered the Oath of Office to them. The Student Mayor and Student Councilmembers took their seats at the dais.

Student Mayor Livingston introduced Pastor Jeff Jones of the Kalamazoo Valley Family Church of Portage, who gave the invocation and the City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Elizabeth A. Campbell, Jim Pearson, Patricia M. Randall, Edward J. Sackley and Terry R. Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Claudette S. Reid and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas. Also in attendance were City Manager Maurice S. Evans, City Attorney Randall Brown and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

The City Clerk called the Student Mayor and Student Councilmembers roll with the following members present: Student Councilmembers Delaney Beals, Amanda Croft and Rachel Zawistowski, Renee Beranek, Emily Fulling and Robbie Overlander and Student Mayor Joe Livingston.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Sackley, seconded by Reid, to approve the January 24, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Student Mayor Livingston asked all of the Student Councilmembers to share in the reading of the Consent Agenda. Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER OF FEBRUARY 14, 2012:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to approve the Check Register of February 14, 2012. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

### REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

\* **AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES – HISTORIC DISTRICT MODIFICATION: 3821 WEST MILHAM AVENUE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to accept the amendment to Section 38-35 of Chapter 38, Historic Preservation, of the Code of Ordinances for first reading and set a second reading with final adoption for February 28, 2012. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **TENTATIVE PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE HOMESTEAD PLANNED DEVELOPMENT, 3821 WEST MILHAM AVENUE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to accept the Tentative Plan Amendment for The Homestead Planned Development and set a public hearing for March 13, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard; following the public hearing, consider approving the Tentative Plan Amendment for The Homestead Planned Development, 3821 West Milham Avenue, subject to the conditions outlined in the January 13, 2012 Department of Community Development report; and following action on the Tentative Plan Amendment, consider

approving the Final Plan for the three McGillicuddy Lane land divisions. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **FINAL PLAN FOR OAKLAND HILLS CONDOMINIUMS (PHASE III), 8716 OAKLAND DRIVE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to approve the Final Plan for Oakland Hills Condominiums (Phase III), subject to the applicant reconfirming the wetland boundary with concurrence from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, before issuance of building permits for those units located adjacent to the wetland area. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **BOND REFUNDING RESOLUTION:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Refunding of the City of Portage Downtown Development Authority Bonds, Series 2001 and approve of the Undertaking to Provide Continuing Disclosure. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolutions recorded on page 341 and 353 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 44.

\* **AUSTIN LAKE AERATION EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to authorize execution of a license agreement with the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board for temporary placement of aeration equipment and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents related to this matter on behalf of the city subsequent to confirmation of the special assessment roll by the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **HUMAN SERVICES BOARD - HUMAN SERVICE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROPOSAL:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, in lieu of the Human Services Board proposal to host a Human Services Fair, to approve a direct mailing regarding human services information and resources; publication of articles in the *Portager*; posting of relevant information on the city website; and use of cable access to enhance public education regarding human services available to Portage residents in the community. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **PRELIMINARY PLAT OF OAKLAND FARMS NORTH, 9810 OAKLAND DRIVE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to approve a request from Hyland Associates, LLC, allowing for an additional 90-day time period for City Council action on a preliminary plat. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **SWEEPER REPAIR REQUEST:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to authorize repairs to the 2007 Elgin Whirlwind street sweeper by Bell Equipment Company at a total cost not to exceed \$25,122.39 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to these repairs on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

\* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** City Council received the minutes of the:

Portage Board of Education Special and Regular of December 12 and Special of December 22, 2011, Policy Governance Session of January 9 and Special and Committee of the Whole Work Session of January 16, 2012.

Portage Park Board of January 4, 2012.

Portage Youth Advisory Committee of January 9, 2012.

Portage Environmental Board of January 11, 2012.

Portage Human Services Board of January 19, 2012.

Portage Planning Commission of January 19, 2012.

## **AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**PRESENTATION BY MAYOR PRO TEM CLAUDETTE REID:** City Council received the presentation by Mayor Pro Tem Claudette Reid regarding the recent activity of the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the Community Survey Committee and deferred to Councilmember Urban, who provided a review of the activities of the Fees (Transparency and Fairness) Committee. Councilmember Sackley commented on some of the possible future directions available to the Community Survey that were discussed.

## **OTHER CITY MATTERS:**

**STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:** State House of Representative Margaret O'Brien discussed the Proposed Budget set for two years by Governor Snyder stating that it was the first time more was paid on debt retirement than required. She commented on the commitment to increase the Rainy Day Fund, on the \$45 million for public safety, on the Governor's concern for the poorest cities and on best practices to ensure economic vitality. She said that there was no infrastructure in the budget and that the County would be receiving statutory revenue sharing. She recognized that the housing market is flat and, in the last five years, the State has lost 700,000 jobs. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas and Councilmember Sackley recognized Celia Overlander, wife of former Mayor Don Overlander.

**STATEMENTS OF STUDENT MAYOR AND STUDENT CITY COUNCIL FOR THE DAY AND FACULTY ADVISOR:** At the request of Mayor Strazdas, the Student Mayor, the Student Councilmembers and Faculty Advisor Rick Searing expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program. At the request of Mayor Strazdas, each Student Councilmember and the Student Mayor indicated what they learned during their Special Meeting with the Mayor and City Council. Discussion followed.

**STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER:** Mayor and City Council expressed their appreciation to the students who participated in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program and the Faculty Advisors for their efforts with the Program.

Councilmember Pearson congratulated the Streets & Equipment Department for winning the Friends of Bicycling Award for the needed improvements to the bike paths.

Councilmember Sackley indicated that a person never knows what is going to be the catalyst to get someone interested in government and cited Don Overlander for getting him involved and expressed his appreciation to the students who participated in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program and the Faculty Advisors for their efforts with the Program.

Councilmember Urban apologized for missing the discussion of the need for separate football fields for the high schools, concurred with the comments of Councilmember Sackley regarding our students in the community and expressed his personal appreciation to them.

City Manager Evans indicated that the following is posted on the City of Portage website at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov): that the City of Portage Office of the City Assessor will host two Property Assessment Forums on Monday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue) in City Council Chambers; and, each forum will include an explanation of the assessment process, the assessment change notice, poverty exemption requirements and the Board of Review and Michigan Tax Tribunal appeal processes. He also indicated that the property owner who disagrees with their property value can meet with the Board of Review, Tuesday, March 13 through Thursday March 15, 2012.

Mayor Pro Tem Reid highlighted the Human Services Board Human Service Public Educational Proposal Plan on the Consent Agenda, and announced a Chile Cook-off for the benefit of MYCOPS at The Hangar Bar and Grill on West Main in Kalamazoo, Saturday, February 18, 2012, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mayor Strazdas announced that the Kalamazoo Public Safety Department won the Battle of the Badges Hockey Game this year and \$5,000 was raised, took this moment to express his appreciation to the students who participated in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program and highlighted three construction projects: The Homestead, Oakland Hills Condominiums Phase III and the Preliminary Plat of Oakland Farms. Mayor Strazdas asked each Councilmember to present a Certificate of Participation to each of the Student Councilmembers for the Day and he presented one to the Student Mayor for the Day.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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James R. Hudson, City Clerk

**\*Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.**